
ROCHFORD DISTRICT REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN - ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' views on an Environmental Appraisal to accompany the First Deposit Draft of the Replacement Local Plan. The Plan will replace the existing Rochford District Local Plan First Review, and provide a policy basis for the control of development in the District up to 2011.
- 1.2 The preparation of a Local Plan is a statutory function for the authority.

2 ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL

- 2.1 The Planning Policy sub-committee of Rochford District Council approved the approach to the undertaking of the environmental appraisal of policies within the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan at their meeting on 26th October 1999. This format has been adopted and can be found in the document attached as Appendix A.
- 2.2 The Government in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 12 – Development Plans and Regional Planning Guidance*, states that environmental concerns need to be integrated into policy in all development plan preparations. Paragraph 5.52 of PPG 12, states that '*Most policies and proposals in all types of plans will have environmental implications, which should be appraised as part of the plan preparation process.*'
- 2.3 The Environmental Appraisal of the plan adopts guidance set out in *Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans: A Good Practice Guide* - Department of the Environment (1993).
- 2.4 One of the purposes of environmental appraisal is to provide a framework to ensure that environmental and sustainability concerns are integrated into the plan making process. The appraisal also enables negative impacts to be highlighted so that consideration can be given to potential mitigation of the adverse effects.
- 2.5 The Environmental Appraisal of the Replacement Local Plan is not a part of the local plan, nor is it proposed to adopt this as Supplementary Planning Guidance. Instead the Environmental Appraisal will be a technical document that will be used in support of the plan and process.

3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It is recommended:

That, subject to views from Members, the Environmental Appraisal of the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan as outlined in the appendix to the report be reported to the Environmental Services Committee for approval. (HPS)

Shaun Scrutton

Head of Planning Services

Background Papers: None.

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